



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

19 OCTOBER 2020

## (U) CALIFORNIA

### (U) Los Angeles – Online Claims of Fraudulent Activity Leads to Arrest

(U) An entertainer who claimed they were becoming wealthy from unemployment fraud was arrested on federal charges of carrying out fraudulent activity related to obtaining unemployment insurance benefits under the COVID-19 air, relief, and economic security act (CARES Act). The entertainer allegedly exploited the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance provision of the CARES Act by using debit cards pre-loaded with unemployment benefits that were administered by California Employment Development Department.

SOURCE: 16 October 2020, [US DOJ Press Release](#)

### (U) Stockton – Police Crackdown on Street Gang Leading to 34 Arrests

(U) The Stockton Police Department announced the success of "Operation Criptonite," which sought to disrupt criminal street gangs in the city of Stockton. The ongoing investigation, which began in June 2020, has resulted in 55 search warrants, 38 recovered firearms, \$40,000 seized, and 34 arrests related to various criminal activities. The Stockton police said it anticipates more arrests in the future as officers continue to crackdown on gang-related crime. Law enforcement also confiscated what is suspected to be roughly one-pound of cocaine, five-pounds of methamphetamine, 1,300 pills of ecstasy, and "an abundance of marijuana," according to the statement.

SOURCE: 16 October 2020, [ABC10](#)

## (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

### (U) Arizona – Tunnel Discovered Near Nogales Border Area

(U) Nogales – US Border Patrol agents discovered a hand-dug tunnel near the Nogales border area on 17 October 2020. Initial findings indicate the tunnel was used to move small objects a short distance, under a fenced area, across the US and Mexico border.

SOURCE: 18 October 2020, [KOLD News 13](#)

### (U) California – US Border Patrol and US Navy Rescue 19 Shipwrecked on San Clemente Island

(U) Los Angeles – The US Border Patrol's Border Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR) team assisted federal partners during a search and rescue event on 14 October. In total 19 people were identified as passengers or crew on a panga boat being used for human smuggling. The boat had become inoperable when the engine caught fire and passengers paddled the damaged boat to the island of San Clemente and disembarked. The group consisted of 16 men and three women, all between the ages of 17 and 45, and all Mexican nationals illegally present in the US.

SOURCE: 16 October 2020, [CBP Press Release](#)

### (U) Texas – Approximately \$479,000 in Methamphetamine Seized at Los Indios International Bridge

(U) Los Indios – US Customs and Border Protection officers at the Free Trade International Bridge intercepted a smuggling attempt of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of over \$479K. A single driver attempted to smuggle illicit drugs into the US by hiding the meth inside of his personally

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owned vehicle. The drugs, vehicle, and driver have been placed in DHS Homeland Security Investigations custody for further investigation.

SOURCE: 16 October 2020, [CBP Press Release](#)

### **(U) NATIONAL**

#### **(U) Utah – White Supremacist Gang Members Charged in Federal Drugs and Weapons Case**

(U) Salt Lake City – Federal authorities in Utah announced the arrests of white supremacist gang members and associates in the Salt Lake City area who allegedly distributed drugs and illegally possessed guns. The charges in 15 indictments unsealed 16 October 2020 targeted Soldiers of Aryan Culture, Silent Aryan Warriors, and Noble Elect Thugs, the US Attorney's Office in Utah said in a statement. The US Department of Justice's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force launched an investigation last year, concluding members of the gangs trafficked methamphetamine and firearms, according to the statement. Investigators said they purchased 1.65-pounds of meth and recovered 15 guns during the operation.

SOURCE: 16 October 2020, [NBC News](#)

### **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

#### **(U) Afghanistan – 13 Dead After Car Bombing in Ghor Province**

(U) Kabul – At least 13 people, mostly civilians, were killed and 100 others wounded in a suicide car bombing on 18 October in western Ghor province. An explosives-laden car detonated near the entrance of provincial police chief's headquarters and other government buildings in Firoz Koh, the capital city of Ghor province, said Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Aryan. The attack in Ghor is the latest in a string of deadly terrorist attacks across Afghanistan which comes amid an uptick in violence by the Taliban.

SOURCE: 19 October 2020, [Menafn.com](#)

#### **(U) Cameroon – 60 Schools Closed as Boko Haram Suicide Bombings Increase**

(U) Yaounde – Cameroon says it has again closed more than 60 schools on its northern border with Nigeria to save children and teaching staff from increasing Boko Haram attacks. The central African state has deployed its military to teach displaced children in locations they say are safe. Boko Haram is increasingly using suicide bombers, as the military has drastically reduced the terrorist group's firepower.

SOURCE: 19 October 2020, [Voanews.com](#)

### **(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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